

Reverend S I R,

HAVING found, from many Instances, the Difficulties and Expence of coming at the certain Knowledge of the Places, where People have been born or register'd, whether in the Parish Registers, or the private ones of Dissenting Congregations, it has been thought of important Service to have such a *General* authentick Register, as in the Plan here inclosed from the *Heralds Office*; which, I am informed, has been generally approved of by all our Brethren who have seen it; especially as it may save many of us the Trouble of attending at *Courts of Justice* to prove any one's Age: Wherefore you are desired to recommend it to your Congregation in such manner as you shall judge most effectual; particularly by causing the larger Plans to be hung up in your Vestry-Room, or other most convenient Place, and to be pasted up on the Inside of the Porches of your Meeting-house, and the smaller ones to be dispersed among the chief of your People.

As many of you live at a Distance from *London*, the *Officers of Arms* have desired you may be farther inform'd, that, in order to save the Trouble and Expence of an *Affidavit* for each particular Birth, if each of you will be at the Pains of keeping a *Register* on a single Sheet or half Sheet of Paper, conformable to their Plan now sent you, having each Entry sign'd by one or both the Parents; or two Persons present at the Birth, and if convenient the Midwife for one; and will once in six or twelve Months go before a neighbouring *Justice of the Peace*, and certify the Truth of the annexed Register by *Affidavit*, setting forth, that you personally know the Parents and the Children born, and that the several Entries were made and signed in your Presence; such *Registries* and *Affidavits* being transmitted to the *Heralds-Office* in *London*, with the Fee of *Half a Crown* for each Birth, the Charge of the *Affidavit* being deducted, will be duly enter'd in the *General Register*, and the Originals will be filed. You are likewise desired to keep a Copy of what you transmit to the *Office*, to be preserved in a Book belonging to the Congregation. *Certificates* from the *Office* will be made out and deliver'd to the Person who pays in the Fees; and any Number of the Plans desired will be given him at the same time.

The *Office of Arms* is a Body corporate acting under a Charter of *Richard the III.* their Officers are under Oath for the just Performance of their Duty; but to make this *Registry* more secure they have voluntarily enter'd into Bonds, with large Penalties, for the faithful Execution of it. The Evidence of their *Entries*, when sign'd by the Head of a Family, is allowed in Claims of the greatest Importance.

I am,

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

London,